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JOHN S. BEULICK
C/O ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
ONE METROPOLITAN SQUARE
SUITE 2600
ST. LOUIS, MO 63102-2740

EXAMINER

WOO, ISAAC M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

16

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/495,268

Applicant(s)

CIMINI ET AL.

Examiner

Isaac M Woo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to Applicant's Arguments, filed on March 29, 2004 have been considered but they are not persuasive.
2. Claims 1-20 are pending.

Response to Amendment

3. In response to Applicant's remark filed on March 29, 2004, applicant argues (key arguments) that neither Serbinis nor Dworkin, considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests database that includes a plurality of tables wherein at least one of the tables include at least one error proofing example and meta data entered by a user.

However, examiner does not agree. Serninis discloses, "Referring to FIG. 2, DMS database 25 is described in greater detail. Database 25 includes a plurality of tables 61-64 and 66-68 that maintain information on documents stored in store 30. Each of tables 61-64 and 66-68 may in turn consist of multiple tables. Document information tables 61 have entries for a number of document-related parameters", see (fig. 2, col. 6, lines 19-46). "Database 25, which may be a relational database, stores: data concerning documents controlled by server computer 20 and stored in store 30 (hereinafter, referred to as "meta-data"), such as annotations, instructions, characteristics, etc.; user and account data; transaction data; notification data; and authorization data, all as

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described in greater detail hereinafter. Database 25 may be implemented on server computer 20 or on a separate computer connected to server computer 20", see (col. 5, lines 26-35). This teaches that Serbinis provides database includes a plurality of tables and meta data. Applicant defined the definition of error proofing example is a document that provides error related information from applicant's specification page 1-2. Dworkin discloses, a user (client) posts answers on on-line bulletin board (computer forum), see (fig. 2, col. 3, lines 1-20, col. 4, lines 16-43). The definition of the bulletin board system (BBS) is that a computer and associated software which typically provides an electronic message database where people can log in and leave messages. Messages are typically split into topic groups similar to the newsgroups on Usenet (which is like a distributed BBS). Any user may submit or read any question and answers in these public areas. The error proofing example is one of answer for question that a user posted (for instance, a user has an error message during software installation. Another user can post the error proofing answers for installation error). This teaches the bulletin board provide error proofing information. Thus, Serbinis or Dworkin, considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests database that includes a plurality of tables wherein at least one of the tables include at least one error proofing example and meta data entered by a user.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Serbinis et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,584,466, hereinafter, "Serbinis") in view of Dworkin et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,026,148, hereinafter, "Dworkin").

With respect to claims 1 and 13, Serbinis discloses, plurality of clients (10, 11, fig. 1A, fig. 1B, col. 4, lines 31-67 to col. 5, lines 1-67), each client comprising a plurality of user interface classes (col. 6, lines 47-64) and at least one class that provides access to a database (col. 8, lines 45-67 to col. 9, lines 1-49, col. 19, lines 50-67 to col. 20, lines 1-3); server comprising, a plurality of servlets (fig. 1A, fig. 1B, col. 5, lines 4-35), at least some of the servlets providing at least one of a database and server access capability to each client (col. 2, lines 16-43, col. 5, lines 4-35); and database comprising a plurality of tables (col. 9, lines 19-49), at least one of the tables comprising at least one entered by a user (uploading by user, col. 8, lines 62-67 to col. 9, lines 1-31) and meta-data (col. 5, lines 27-35, col. 9, lines 19-49) that describes the example, the meta-data defined by the user when creating an example, the database accessed by each the

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client via the server, see (col. 8, lines 45-67 to col. 9, lines 1-49, col. 19, lines 50-67 to col. 20, lines 1-3). Serbini does not explicitly disclose an error proofing example.

However, an error proofing example Dworkin discloses, a user (client) posts answers on on-line bulletin board (computer forum), see (fig. 2, col. 3, lines 1-20, col. 4, lines 16-43). The definition of the bulletin board system (BBS) is that a computer and associated software which typically provides an electronic message database where people can log in and leave messages. Messages are typically split into topic groups similar to the newsgroups on Usenet (which is like a distributed BBS). Any user may submit or read any question and answers in these public areas. The error proofing example is one of answer for question that a user posted (for instance, a user has an error message during software installation. Another user can post the error proofing answers for installation error). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art the time of the invention was made to include an error proofing example in the system of Serbinis. Because the error proofing example can provides error troubleshooting information to the users.

With respect to claim 2, Serbinis discloses, each user interface classes comprises at least two visual components for controlling information shown to a user and for handling user input, see (col. 6, lines 47-64).

With respect to claim 3, Serbinis discloses that one of the user interface classes constructs and displays a menu of web pages that user can view, see (col. 6, lines 47-64).

With respect to claim 4, Serbinis discloses that one of the user interface classes initializes and displays forms, see (col. 6, lines 47-64).

With respect to claim 5, Serbinis discloses that the class that provides access to the database formats SQL statements and invokes request to servlets in the server that provide database access, see (col. 8, lines 45-67 to col. 9, lines 1-49, col. 19, lines 50-67 to col. 20, lines 1-3, fig. 1A, fig. 1B, col. 5, lines 4-35).

With respect to claim 6, Serbinis discloses that the server comprises servlets for database queries and updating, uploading a document and updating the database, downloading a document and extracting user permissions from the database, see (col. 8, lines 45-67 to col. 9, lines 1-49, col. 19, lines 50-67 to col. 20, lines 1-3, col. 5, lines 4-35).

With respect to claims 7, 8 and 9, Serbinis discloses that one of the tables stores process which an error proofing example applies and failure modes associated with an error proofing example, part families and solution stage, see (col. 8, lines 45-67 to col. 9, lines 1-49, col. 19, lines 50-67 to col. 20, lines 1-3, col. 5, lines 4-35).

With respect to claim 10, Serbinis discloses that one of the tables data identifying users of the error proofing web site, see (col. 8, lines 45-67 to col. 9, lines 1-49).

With respect to claim 11, Serbinis discloses that one of the tables stores textual data relating to the error proofing example, see (col. 8, lines 45-67 to col. 9, lines 1-49).

With respect to claim 12, Serbinis discloses that one of the tables stores a principle and related strategy that are associated with an error proofing example, see (col. 8, lines 45-67 to col. 9, lines 1-49, col. 19, lines 50-67 to col. 20, lines 1-3, col. 5, lines 4-35).

With respect to claim 14, Serbinis discloses that at least one interface class to provide access to a database, providing at least two visual components for controlling information shown to a user and for handling user input, see (col. 19, lines 50-67 to col. 20, lines 1-3).

With respect to claim 15, Serbinis discloses that the providing at least two visual components for controlling information shown to a user and for handling user input comprises the constructing and displaying a menu of web pages that a user can view, see (col. 6, lines 47-64).

With respect to claim 16, Serbinis discloses that the providing at least tow visual components for controlling information shown to a user and for handling user input comprises the initializing and displaying forms, see (col. 6, lines 47-64).

With respect to claim 17, Serbinis discloses that the providing access to database formats SQL statements and invoking request to servlets in the server that provide database access, see (col. 8, lines 45-67 to col. 9, lines 1-49, col. 19, lines 50-67 to col. 20, lines 1-3, col. 5, lines 4-35).

With respect to claim 18, Serbinis discloses that querying database, uploading a document and updating the database, and downloading a document and extracting user permission from the database, see (col. 8, lines 45-67 to col. 9, lines 1-49, col. 19, lines 50-67 to col. 20, lines 1-3, col. 5, lines 4-35).

With respect to claim 19, Serbinis discloses that the storing processes in the table to which an error proofing example applies, see (col. 8, lines 45-67).

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claim 20 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

2. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


Contact Information

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isaac M Woo whose telephone number is (703) 305-0081. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

IMW
May 14, 2004


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER